

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00332 171249Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4192
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI EDITORIAL CRITICIZES VANCE TRIP

GOVERNMENT-OWNED BAGHDAD DAILY AL-JUMHURIYA OF FEBRUARY 16
HAS PUBLISHED EDITORIAL IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO VANCE
STATEMENT IN PRAISE OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD. EDITORIAL
APPEARS UNDER TITLE: "VANCE TRIP AS JUDGED BY DECLARATIONS
AND FLATTERY TOWARD SETTLEMENT REGIMES" AND APPEARS IN
SPACE OFTEN RESERVED FOR AUTHORITATIVE VIEWS. FOLLOWING
IS TEXT OF EDITORIAL. "THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY U.S.
SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE BEGAN HIS FIRST OFFICIAL MISSION
IN THE ARAB AREA. PRIOR TO LEAVING WASHINGTON, HE
DELIVERED A CLOSELY WORDED STATEMENT TO THE CORRESPONDENT
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00332 171249Z

OF A SYRIA NEWSPAPER WHICH INCLUDED SOME OPINIONS
OF THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION ABOUT THE SO-CALLED
MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS.
IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE VANCE STATEMENT REAFFIRMS
THAT THE PRESENT YEAR MAY BE A DECISIVE YEAR IN THIS
CRISIS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ALSO REAFFIRMED THIS
VIEW IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE KUWAITI NEWSPAPER AL-QABAS.

IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT HE ESPECIALLY STRESSED HIS PRAISE FOR HAFEZ ASAD, THE HEAD OF THE RENEGADE SYRIAN REGIME AND PRAISED THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND THIS REGIME, ESPECIALLY IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL FIELD. HE SAID THAT HE WAS VERY HAPPY THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE U.S. HAD EXPANDED DURING THE PAST YEAR AND THAT MANY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN HAD BEGUN TO LOOK INTO NEW MARKETS IN SYRIA, JUST AS CULTURAL EXCHANGE IS CONTINUALLY EXPANDING.

VANCE ALSO SAID THAT HAFEZ ASAD IS ONE OF THE LEADING CHIEFS OF STATE WHO HE PASSIONATELY DESIRES TO MEET IN THE EFFORT TO REACH THE SO-CALLED PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ALSO REFERRED TO THE ROLE OF THE RENEGADE SYRIAN REGIME IN LEBANON, DESCRIBING IT AS CONSTRUCTIVE.

THIS SPECIAL CONCENTRATION ON THE RENEGADE SYRIAN REGIME APPEARS TO HAVE TWO BASIC AIMS. FIRST, TO ENCOURAGE HIS REGIME IN ITS HEADLONG PLUNGE INTO ACHIEVING A CAPITULATIONIST SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING THE PURSUIT OF A POLICY OF PIVOTAL ALLIANCE WITH THE REGIMES AND FORCES OF ARAB REACTION AND TO CONTINUE TO STRIKE AND CRIPPLE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND THE PATRIOTIC LEBANESE MOVEMENT. SECONDLY, TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY WITH THE TRAITORIST CLIQUE WHICH CONTROLS THIS REGIME AND TO MAKE IT FELT THAT IT NOW ENJOYS THE FULL TRUST OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND NEED NOT THEREFORE FEAR ANYTHING WHILE PUBLICLY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00332 171249Z

FLINGING WIDE ITS DOORS TO AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE MOST BLATANT MANNER. THE CLIQUE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE THE GAINS OF THE ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT WITHOUT FEAR OF SHAME. THIS IS BECAUSE AMERICAN STANDS WITH THEM AND PROTECTS THEM AND BECAUSE A SETTLEMENT IS ON THE VERGE OF BEING ACHIEVED THIS YEAR SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO LOOK FEARFULLY INTO THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

IT IS THUS THAT VANCE WISHES THE CLIQUE OF THE SYRIAN REGIME TO UNDERSTAND EVENTS AND TO PREPARE ITSELF TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM ON THIS BASIS IN ORDER TO BE READY TO TAKE WHATEVER INITIATIVE MAY BE REQUIRED IN THE WAY OF NEW CONCESSIONS WHICH ARE CONTINUALLY DEMANDED ALONG THE PATH TO GENEVA. BEARING IN MIND THAT THE STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SECRETARY WAS VOID OF ANY NEW PROPOSALS OR ANY NEWLY DEFINED AMERICAN POSITION REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE ARAB AREA, IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT VANCE IN HIS

NEW TRIP TO SOME ARAB CAPITALS HAS COME TO TAKE, NOT TO GIVE. HE HAS COME TO PERSUADE THE ARAB REGIMES CONCERNED WITH A SETTLEMENT THAT THEY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE ROAD TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE REMAINS FULL OF DIFFICULTIES AND THAT THESE DIFFICULTIES CANNOT BE OVERCOME EXCEPT BY MORE CONCESSIONS WHICH THE ZIONIST ENEMY REQUIRES. FOREMOST AMONG THESE CONCESSIONS WILL BE THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE NECESSITY OF FULL RECOGNITION OF THE LEGITIMACY OF THE USURPING ZIONIST ENTITY IN PALESTINE AND A PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF READINESS TO CO-EXIST WITH THIS ENTITY, FOREVER. IN THIS WAY, THERE WILL BE AN INTENSIFICATION OF PRESSURE ON THE PLO IN ORDER THAT IT ALSO WILL RECOGNIZE THE RACIST ZIONIST ENTITY IN ORDER TO PERMIT ITSELF TO PARTICIPATE IN SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, EVEN IF THIS PARTICIPATION IS TO BE WITHIN A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BAGHDA 00332 171249Z

WITHOUT WANTING TO BE PREMATURE, WE CONTINUE TO BE CONVINCED BY THE FAITH OF THE ARAB MASSES AND OF THEIR STRAIGHTFORWARD CONCLUSIONS WHICH CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE PRESENT VANCE TRIP IN THE ARAB REGION AIMS ONLY AT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CHAINS OF THE LIQUIDATIONIST CONSPIRACY. THE CONSPIRATORIAL FORCES ARE PUSHING TOWARD MORE TRAITOROUS ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE GAINS OF THE ARAB REVOLUTION, INDEED AGAINST EVERY LIBERATIONIST ASPIRATION OF THE ARAB PEOPLE. HOWEVER, WE ARE COMPLETELY CONFIDENT THAT THE WILL OF THE ARAB MASSES WILL REMAIN STRONGER AND THAT THE CONSPIRACY OF THE LIQUIDATIONIST, CAPITULATIONIST APOSTASY WILL IN THE END BRING FORTH A HARVEST ONLY OF MORE DISAPPOINTMENT AND FIASCOES." USINT COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.

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